

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Keeping You Safe



Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Sciences  
Centre

To: All Staff and Professional Staff

From: Dr. Peter Voros, Incident Manager

Date: March 10, 2021

RE: **COVID-19 Vaccine Update – 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose Intervals**

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The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients and the community is our utmost priority. To increase the number of individuals benefiting from a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, our Hospital, as guided by the province, is following recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) to **extend the time interval of the second dose of vaccines up to 16 weeks.**

Current evidence indicates high vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic disease, hospitalization and death from COVID-19 for several weeks after the first dose, including among older populations. Since vaccine supplies remain limited, extending the interval for the second dose to four months will maximize the number of first doses administered. This contributes to health equity by increasing community protection against COVID-19. To learn more about vaccine intervals, please view the video at <https://player.vimeo.com/video/510359261>

Any staff, professional staff, learner, or volunteer who has already received their 1<sup>st</sup> dose, and has their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose scheduled will be contacted by our vaccination team to reschedule their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose to 16 weeks after their 1<sup>st</sup> dose. There is no need to contact us, we will contact you.

To learn more about NACI' recommendation, please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/rapid-response-extended-dose-intervals-covid-19-vaccines-early-rollout-population-protection.html>.

The role of our Hospital continues to be to provide vaccination support as directed by the Thunder Bay District Health Unit. It is expected that all remaining Hospital and Health Research Institute staff who want to be vaccinated will have their turn within the next two weeks. More information will be provided as details are confirmed.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding.

Please contact your manager with any questions or concerns.

All Hospital COVID-19 updates are also available on the iNtranet at <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/>